Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
127 East 14th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board Meeting
October 26, 2026
MINUTES

Attendance via TEAMS & hybrid meeting:

Board members	EMTA Staff	Guests
Ashley Lawson	Jeremy Peterson	
George Willis	Dave Robinson	
Lyn Twillie-Darby	Ed Torres	
Ron Jones	Dani Duran	
Shantell Hilliard (V)	Vicky Takach	
Dr. Ben Wilson (V)	Sarah Morrison	
Jill Nagy (V)	Sara Little	
John Trucilla (V)	Taylor Patten	
Dave Cannon		
Chelcie Alcorn (absent)		

The board meeting was called to order at 4:00PM.

Dr. Ben Wilson asked for approval of the October 26, 2026, meeting agenda. Lyn Twillie-Darby moved to approve the agenda. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Dr. Ben Wilson asked for approval of the corrected September 28, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes. Lyn Twillie-Darby moved to approve the minutes. Ron Jones seconded. Motion passed.

SOLICITORS' ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

CEO ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Angela Kanj, Driver Trainer, provided an overview of EMTA's driver training programs, including new-hire training, ongoing safety education, and CDL training for maintenance staff. The Board thanked Angela and the training team for their work.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CEO REPORT:

- Presented two resolutions for a five-agency cooperative agreement with Avail Technologies for fixed-route scheduling software at $12,000 annually for five years, and a mutual cooperation agreement to pursue a local match waiver.
    - George Willis made a motion to approve both resolutions in a single vote. Ashley Lawson seconded. Motion carried.
- Congressman Mike Kelly and Senator John Fetterman provided letters of support for EMTA's regional Low or No Emissions Grant application, which could fund up to four new 35-foot CNG buses.
- Exploring potential shuttle service between Odis 12 and local entertainment venues in partnership with area organizations.

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- Met with Pittsburgh Regional Transit to discuss potential collaboration on maintenance and other operational needs, as well as labor agreement practices.
- Continuing discussions with the Port Authority regarding a potential lease-to-own arrangement for the Intermodal Transportation Center.
- Met with City Council liaison Mo Troop to provide updates on EMTA activities. A presentation to City Council is being pursued for next month's caucus.

SOLICITOR REPORT: none

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- Vicky reviewed September financials, noting that EMTA revenues and expenses remain under budget. LIFT revenues and expenses are also under budget, with deficit funding currently higher than anticipated.
- Auditors are scheduled to present at next month's Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Discussed the annual officer nomination process and established a nominating committee.
- Discussed reviewing Board bylaws, including officer terms and the possibility of moving to two-year terms to provide greater continuity.
    - Updated bylaws will be circulated within two weeks for Board review. If revisions are needed, a bylaw committee may be established to review and recommend changes for consideration at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Fixed Route: 10 applicants, 8 qualified, 5 interviews scheduled, and 4 in the onboarding process.
- LIFT: 35 applicants, 29 qualified, 3 interviews scheduled, and none currently in the onboarding process.
- Utility Operations: 8 applicants, 8 qualified, 3 interviews scheduled, and 3 were expected to start.
- Discussed clarifying and revising personnel policies and procedures regarding the CEO performance assessment to better define the Personnel Committee's responsibilities and focus on employee-related matters.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

- Continuing communications regarding Odis 12's new location at the MidCity Strip, including parking and visitor information.
- New broadcast commercials are in final editing and expected to be released shortly. EMTA's annual sponsorship of Erie Otters is underway, including arena advertising.
- Spooky Trolley service is underway, with free Saturday rides on the Cultural Loop and weekday mystery routes.
- Developing a collaborative Share the Road safety campaign with the City, County and potentially PennDOT, focusing on awareness of multimodal transportation.
- Planning the 9th Annual Stuff the Bus event for Friday, December 4, at Millcreek Mall.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

- September fixed-route ridership totaled 125,062 rides. LIFT ridership totaled 10,659 rides, including 3,052 ADA trips.

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- The Operations Committee met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed current operations. Additional updates were covered in the CEO report.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: none

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE: none

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: none

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Discussed plans for the December meeting, which may be used as an Executive Committee meeting to complete the CEO performance assessment. Further details will be circulated to the Board.
- The CEO performance assessment will be coordinated by the Executive Committee, with the goal of completion by year-end.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Ben Wilson asked for approval to adjourn the meeting. George Willis made a motion to approve. Ashley Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:41PM.

The next meeting will be November 16, 2026 via TEAMS and In-person @ 4:00 p.m.